

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01213 172346Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 171300Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7485
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1213

EXDIS

LONDON PASS TO SECDEL AND DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) USUN 2532, (B) DAR ES SALAAM 2604, (C) USUN 2506,

1. WE ARE TRANSMITTING BY SEPTTEL AGREED REACTION OF CAPE
TOWN FIVE (SOON TO BECOME THE PRETORIA FIVE ON JUNE 22)
TO CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL TO MEET WITH NYERERE AND SOUTH AFRICA
BEFORE MEETING WITH SWAPO. ALL FIVE REPS HERE ARE VERY STRONGLY
AGREED THAT ANY FURTHER APPROACH TO SAG IS LIKELY TO GET NOWHERE
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AT THIS TIME AS IT WILL BE SEEN AS AN EFFORT TO GET S.A.
TO MAKE CONCESSIONS BEYOND ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIVE'S
ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

2. ALTHOUGH NYERERE'S REACTION TO THE IDEA OF DIRECT TALKS
WITH SWAPO MUST CERTAINLY BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, THE PROBLEM
WE HAVE WITH THE SAG IS PERHAPS EQUALLY DIFFICULT. INDEED,

NYERERE'S REACTION SEEMS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT EVEN IF S.A. MAKES ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS, FURTHER NEGOTIATION MAY BE NECESSARY WITH SWAPO -- I.E., SWAPO HAS NOT INDICATED EVEN CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. SAG'S SUSPICION THAT SWAPO HAS NO INTENTION OF EVER ACCEPTING THE FIVE'S SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL CAN ONLY BE REINFORCED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE S.A. IS ASKED FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS AND SWAPO HAS MADE NO EXPLICIT COMMITMENTS ON ITS SIDE.

3. REF B WAS RECEIVED AFTER THE CAPE TOWN FIVE HAD MET BUT IT IS LOGICAL TO SUGGEST THAT THE CONTACT GROUP MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO HAVE A SPECIFIC POSITION FORMULATED BEFORE THEY SEE EITHER NYERERE OR THE SAG. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE FORMER MAY WANT THE GROUP TO INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE ITS ORIGINAL PROPOSALS WHEREAS THE LATTER WILL EXPECT ASSURANCES THAT THE GROUP IS NOT BACKING AWAY FROM ITS PROPOSALS.

4. USUN AND CONTACT GROUP SHOULD BE AWARE THAT BEFORE RECEIPT OF REF C, AND WITH AGREEMENT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF CAPE FIVE, I HAD ALREADY TOLD VAN HEERDEN INFORMALLY THAT THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE SHOULD MEET WITH SWAPO IN LUANDA, ALTHOUGH NO DATE OR DETAILS HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON (SECTO 7016 NOTAL). THUS BOTH SAG AS WELL AS SWAPO (REF A) ARE AWARE OF THE DECISION TO HAVE A DIRECT MEETING WITH SWAPO.

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5. IF WE ARE TO GET SAG TO AGREE TO ANY OF THE POINTS THAT MIGHT MEET SWAPO CONCERNS (E.G. KEEPING TROOPS AT ONLY ONE LOCATION RATHER THAN TWO), WE DO FEEL IT BEST TO AVOID APPROACHING THEM TO FORMALLY. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, USUN SHOULD KEEP IN MIND ALSO THAT SAG WILL JUST HAVE MOVED BACK TO PRETORIA, FORUIE WILL BE ENGAGED IN OTHER TALKS (REPORTED SEPTELS) THRU JUNE 26, AND VORSTER WILL BE ON A NOT-TO-BE-DISTURBED HUNTING TRIP. THUS BOTHA MAY NOT BE TOO RECEPTIVE TO AN EARLY CONTACT GROUP VISIT IN BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. EDMONDSON

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